

It early became clear that the Fifth Army's right flank was the real danger spot. Gaps, at times half a mile wide, occurred with the French being unable to fill them. Few temporary gaps occurred on the left flank.

The Third Army on the left was commanded by General Julian Byng, afterwards a Canadian Governor General. His army was not as completely smashed as the Fifth.

VILLERS BRETONNEAUX

My meeting with the G.O.C. British Fifth Army was a bit of an ordeal for me. General HUBERT GOUGH seemed cool but showing immense strain. Brigadier General J. E. B. SELVY, G.O.C. Canadian Cavalry Brigade, had told him about the Canadian Corps Motor Machine Guns.

Banks had moved out of VILLERS BRETONNEAUX a week before the Motors arrival. Otherwise it might have been profitable for some of "the boys" to help with the moving! The French franc was worth something then.

MAPS

We had no maps of the area to be covered. Being directed to an officer of the Intelligence Branch, I found the gentleman in a Chateau busily engaged cutting oil-paintings from their gilded frames, with an NCO helping by steadyng the table the officer was standing on! At first he paid scant attention to my request for maps. When he got down from the table, I apologized, in my best manner, for barging in

on him so abruptly. Telling him who I was, he said there were no Canadians here! He gazed at me as if I was a spy and would like to arrest me! I invited him to come and see the Canadian Motors. He declined and said all maps were packed up! I had to return to General Percy before getting all the maps required.

Major General Percy, a regular army officer of the old school, was friendly. He was having afternoon tea and proffered me a cup, but I could not wait. He was curious how the Canadian Corps came by a fully-mechanized machine gun brigade when other Corps had none. Other Corps did not have a "Brutinel"! That's why.

The Fifth Army Commander might have spared a few moments to speak to his "last reinforcements". At first he said he would-then changed his mind. His Army, like himself, was crumbling. He was soon to be recalled to England. History, however, relates he did all an Army Commander could possibly have done under the circumstances.

VILLERS BRETONNEAUX was a maze of staff officers coming and going. For the most part getting ready to move back. They came "cheaper by the dozen", and, at first, paid scant attention to the Motors. One officer said something about the Canadian Corps always being able to choose its own front. That amused me! They gazed with envy at all our transport.

MOTORS REAR H.Q.

After establishing a Rear H.Q. at VILLERS - BRETONNEAUX, the Motors moved up the ROYE